

11 Cont.
multi-services switch equipped with a first one or more radio interface card for providing wireless communications between the base station and the NIUS and a second one or more radio interface card for providing the point to point inter-cell radio link.

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Q2
32. (Twice Amended) An interface system as defined in claim 25 wherein said inter-cell radio link between respective base stations is in a ring configuration, wherein one of the base stations is connected to said ATM network and the network manager, and each of said other base stations is in bidirectional communication with said one base station over inter-cell radio links.

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Q3
34. (Three times amended) A base station in a cell of a cellular, wireless communications network for providing wireless, bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUS) within the cell and for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link with a base station in a neighboring cell, the base station having an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) multi-services switch equipped with a first radio interface card for providing the wireless, bi-directional communication between the base station and the NIUS and a second interface card for providing the point to point radio inter-cell link, said radio interference cards being, selectively, one of the following: frequency division multiple access (FDMA) or time division multiple access (TDMA).

42. (Three times amended) A method of providing communications between base stations in a cellular, wireless network having multiple cells, each of the multiple cells having a base station, the method comprising providing an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) multi-services switch at each of the base stations, each switch being equipped with a radio interface card for providing point to point bi-directional communication with other base stations in the network; providing a network manager in association with at least one of the base stations for configuring the radio interface cards, and providing a directional antenna for each multi-services switch to support point to point bi-directional communication between base stations over a radio inter-cell link.

45. (Amended) A scaleable, broadband wireless system for providing radio access to a metropolitan area comprising: a plurality of overlapping cell areas, each cell area having a base station and a plurality of fixed user sites having network interface units (NIUs) within each cell area,

ATM radio interface cards (ARICs) in each base station for implementing wireless, bi-directional communication between said base stations and user sites, each said ARICs being adapted to operate selectively on frequency division multiple access (FDMA) protocol, or two time division multiple access (TDMA) protocol.

an ATM backplane at one of said base stations constituted by a plurality of ARICs, each base station ARICs being provided with